

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for assembling mailpieces, said apparatus comprising:

a) means for assembling said mailpieces, said assembling means including a plurality of stations for accumulating documents or inserts into said mailpieces as accumulations of said documents or inserts move through said stations; and

b) a scanner, said scanner reading data from control inserts, said control inserts being included in said accumulated documents or inserts, said control inserts being accumulated into said mailpieces by a downstream one of said stations; and

c) a controller, responsive to an element of said data read from an initial control insert to:

c1) access storing means for storing mailing control files, said mailing control files comprising a plurality of mailpiece records, each of said records defining preparation of a corresponding mailpiece, to open a mailing control file identified by said element;

c2) initialize said apparatus by forming accumulations in accordance with corresponding records in said opened file at each of said stations upstream of said downstream station ; and

c3) thereafter sequentially process records in said opened file and controlling said apparatus to form a corresponding sequence of mailpieces.

2. Apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein at least one of said mailpieces includes a control insert and an item which is valuable or sensitive is affixed to said included control insert.

3. Apparatus as described in claim 2 wherein said item is a credit card.

4. Apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said data is read from said initial control insert as said initial control insert is fed into an initial accumulation.
5. Apparatus as described in claim 4 wherein said initial accumulation is a dummy accumulation.
6. Apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein at least a plurality of said mailpieces include a control insert, said included control inserts including data identifying a corresponding record in said mailing control file, said included data being read to verify that said corresponding records have been used to control assembly of said plurality of said mailpieces.
7. A system for preparing mailpieces, said system comprising:
  - a) a data processing system programmed to generate a mailing job comprising a plurality of mailpieces, by;
    - a1) outputting a mailing control file, said mailing control file comprising a plurality of mailpiece records, each of said records defining preparation of a corresponding mailpiece;
    - a2) producing at least an initial control insert, said control inset including data identifying said mailing control file;
  - b) storing means for receiving and storing said mailing control files, said mailing control files comprising a plurality of mailpiece records, each of said records defining preparation of a corresponding mailpiece;
  - c) means for assembling said mailpieces, said assembling means including a plurality of stations for accumulating documents or inserts into said mailpieces as accumulations of said documents or inserts move through said stations; and

d) a scanner, said scanner reading data from said initial control insert, said initial control insert being fed into an initial one of said accumulations by a downstream one of said stations;

e) a controller, responsive to said data read from said initial control insert to:

e1) access said storing means to open said mailing control file identified by said data;

e2) initialize said apparatus by forming accumulations in accordance with corresponding records in said opened file at each of said stations upstream of said downstream station ; and

e3) thereafter sequentially processing records in said opened file and controlling said apparatus to form a corresponding sequence of mailpieces.

8. Apparatus as described in claim 7 wherein at least one of said mailpieces includes a control insert and an item which is valuable or sensitive is affixed to said included control insert.

9. A system as described in claim 8 wherein said item is a credit card.

10. A system as described in claim 7 wherein said data is read from said initial control insert as said initial control insert is fed into an initial accumulation.

11. A system as described in claim 10 wherein said initial accumulation is a dummy accumulation.

12. A system as described in claim 1 wherein at least a plurality of said mailpieces include a control insert, said included control inserts including data identifying a corresponding record in said

mailing control file, said included data being read to verify that said corresponding records have been used to control assembly of said plurality of said mailpieces.

13. A method for controlling apparatus for assembly of mailpieces, said apparatus including means for assembling said mail pieces, said assembling means including a plurality of stations for accumulating documents or inserts into said mailpieces as accumulations of said documents or inserts move through said stations, and a scanner, said scanner reading data from an initial control insert, said initial control insert being fed into an initial one of said accumulations by a downstream one of said stations, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) storing a mailing control file, said mailing control file comprising a plurality of mailpiece records, each of said records defining preparation of a corresponding mailpiece;

- b) reading data identifying said mailing control file from said initial control insert;

- c) responding to said data read from said initial control insert to:

- c1) open said mailing control file identified by said data;

- c2) initialize said apparatus by forming accumulations in accordance with corresponding records in said opened file at each of said stations upstream of said downstream station; and

- c3) thereafter sequentially process records in said opened file and control said apparatus to form a corresponding sequence of mailpieces.

14. A method as described in claim 13 wherein at least one of said mailpieces includes a control insert and an item which is valuable or sensitive is affixed to said included control insert.

15. A method as described in claim 14 wherein said item is a credit card.

16. A method as described in claim 13 wherein said data is read from said initial control insert as said initial control insert is fed into an initial accumulation.
17. A method as described in claim 16 wherein said initial accumulation is a dummy accumulation.
18. A method as described in claim 13 wherein at least a plurality of said mailpieces include a control insert, said included control inserts including data identifying a corresponding record in said mailing control file, said included data being read to verify that said corresponding records have been used to control assembly of said plurality of said mailpieces.